



Atlanta Police Department – Standard Operating Procedure			
	APD.SOP.1010 – Mission and Organization of the Department Effective Date: May 20th, 2025		
Chief Darin Schierbaum	Signature by: DS	Date Signed:5/20/2025	Renewal date: 2029

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

APD Staff,

The Policy and Standards Section is dedicated to providing the department, and its employees, with accurate, understandable and transparent policies. In order to publish policies that reflect the most up-to-date standards, the Policy and Standard Section regularly reviews all policies to ensure that they are reflective of the current mission and objectives of the Atlanta Police Department.

No significant changes were found during the review and renewal of APD.SOP.1010 – Mission and Organization, however, we encourage you to read the policy below to better understand how the Mission, our Core Values and organization of the department support:

- The goals we strive to meet each day.
- The safety and security of the Citizen of Atlanta
- The operations within the Department.

Thank you and stay informed!

Policy and Standards Section
Planning, Research, and Accreditation Unit



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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the mission, core values, and organizational structure of the Atlanta Police Department. This policy serves as a guiding framework for all personnel, providing clarity on the Department's purpose, leadership hierarchy, and functional responsibilities across divisions and units.

2. MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES:

2.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Atlanta Police Department is to create a safer Atlanta by reducing crime, ensuring the safety of our residents, and building trust in partnership with our community. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 12.2.1a)

2.2 CORE VALUES

- **Professionalism** – Taking pride in our actions, duties, development, and appearance.
- **Integrity** – Adhering to moral and ethical principles at all times.
- **Commitment** – Striving for excellence, accountability, and effectiveness in our performance.
- **Courage** – Instilling trust and standing for justice in the face of danger.

2.3 VISION

We are a source of pride for the residents of Atlanta, admired among law enforcement agencies worldwide, and recognized for our professionalism, integrity, and service to our communities.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The Atlanta Police Department operates under a structured chain of command established by the Chief of Police, with each organizational component reporting to a single designated supervisor.
- 3.2 Employees are accountable to their immediate supervisor unless temporarily assigned elsewhere, in which case they report to the designated supervisor for that assignment. (CALEA 6th ed. Standards 11.2.1; 12.1.2b & c)
- 3.3 All Employees are responsible for understanding and following their chain of command.

4. PROCEDURE

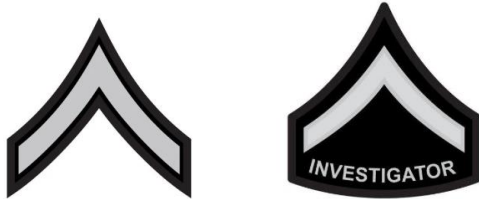
4.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

(CALEA 6th ed. Standard 11.1.1 & 11.3.1a)

- 4.1.1 The City of Atlanta Police Department operates as one entity overseen by a Chief of Police.
- 4.1.2 Under the command of the Chief of Police are both sworn and civilian employees assigned to individual Divisions, Sections and Units, which each have a designated supervisor.



- 4.1.3 In a planned absence, the commanding officer will designate an acting replacement. If no designation has been made, the next highest-ranking officer will assume command until relieved by appropriate authority. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 12.1.2a & b)
- 4.1.4 Employees are responsible for understanding their chain of command. This policy does not affect the grievance process or limit direct contact with the Office of Professional Standards, the chaplain, or any authority within the Department when permitted by SOP. Invitations for discussion by the Chief of Police, or other command personnel are authorized and encouraged. (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 12.1.4)
- 4.1.5 The Sworn APD Rank Structure is as follows, listed from lowest ranking in ascending order with Identifiable rank insignia (if applicable). (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 12.1.2d)
 - 1. Police Recruit (no patches)
 - 2. Police Officer
 - 3. Senior Police Officer & Investigator – 1 Silver Chevron



- 4. Sergeant -- 3 Gold Chevrons



- 5. Lieutenant – 1 Gold Bar



- 6. Captain -- 2 Gold Bars



- 7. Major – a Gold Oakleaf



8. Deputy Chief – 2 Gold Stars



9. Assistant Chief of Police – 3 Gold Stars



10. Chief of Police – 4 Gold Stars



4.1.6 Authority with Responsibility (CALEA 6th ed. Standard 11.3.1a)

1. Each level of supervision will carry proportionate authority for the responsibilities assigned.
2. Every employee will be held accountable for either the appropriate use or failure to exercise their delegated or structured authority.

4.2 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Chief of Police is the Chief Executive Officer of the Atlanta Police Department. They have the authority and responsibility to manage, direct, and control the operations and administration of the Department. The Office of the Chief will oversee the following positions and units:

1. Chief of Staff
 - Calhoun Coordinator
2. Public Affairs Unit
3. Office of Professional Standards
 - Body Camera
4. Assistant Chief of Police
5. Chief Administration Officer



4.3 OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

The Assistant Chief of Police serves in the absence of the Chief of Police to ensure the ongoing function of the department. In lieu of the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief of Police assumes authority and responsibility of managing, directing, and controlling the operations and administration of the following divisions:

1. Field Operations Division
2. Criminal Investigation Division
3. Professional Development Division
4. Community Services Division
5. Special Events Division

4.4 FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION (FOD)

4.4.1 The Field Operations Division (FOD) is the face of the police force consisting of uniformed personnel patrolling the City of Atlanta, responding to 911 calls, and working with the community to reduce crime. The following fall under the command of the Deputy Chief of FOD:

1. Tactical Crime Analysis Unit (TCAU)
2. The six (6) Atlanta Police Precincts/Zones
 - Patrol Officers
 - Zone Discretionary Units
 - Foot patrols, bicycle patrols, and specialized investigative officers.
3. Executive Officer
 - Night Commander
 - Executive Office

4.4.2 The responsibilities of the Precincts/ Zones are to provide a centralized location and have been assigned to provide police presence and response to the citizens within each designated zone.

4.4.3 The Night Commander is the highest-ranking supervisor during the overnight hours and is assigned to oversee field operations and provide command level supervision at all significant events. They also make necessary decisions and issue appropriate orders pertaining to the night operations of the Department in the absence of other command-level personnel.

4.5 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID)

4.5.1 The Criminal Investigations Division consists of investigative units that are primarily responsible for the follow-up investigation of serious crimes committed against persons or property in the City of Atlanta and designed to proactively reduce crimes involving gangs and narcotics.

4.5.2 The Criminal Investigations Division is supervised by a Deputy Chief and is structured as follows:

1. Special Enforcement Section:
 - Fugitive Unit
 - Auto Theft Unit



- Asset Forfeiture Unit
- Homeland Security Unit
 - Repeat Offender
 - Cyber Crimes
- 2. Violent Crime Interdiction Section:
 - Gangs
 - Narcotics
 - APEX
 - Narcotics Airport Interdiction
- 3. Property Crimes Section:
 - Burglary Unit
 - Larceny Unit
 - Larceny From Auto
 - General Crimes
 - Fraud Squad
- 4. Major Crimes Section:
 - Domestic Violence Unit
 - Animal Cruelty
 - Aggravated Assault Unit
 - Homicide Unit
 - Major Crimes Response
 - Special Victims
 - Robbery
 - Crime Stoppers
- 5. Crime Lab
- 6. ID/CSI Unit
- 7. Executive Protection

4.6 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (PDD)

- 4.6.1 Professional Development Division is responsible for the training of personnel, establishing a directive system that the Department operates under, development of personnel for leadership positions within the Department, and a historical society to instill pride in Department and the communities we serve.
- 4.6.2 The Professional Development Division is overseen by a Deputy Chief and is comprised of the following Sections:

1. Training Academy



- Training and Compliance
- Recruit Training
- Professional Development Training
- Critical Incident Training
- Firearms Training
- Site Security Unit

2. Policy and Standards Section

- PRAU
 - Staff Inspections
 - Policy
 - Accreditation
- The Atlanta Retired Police Reserve (ARPR)
- The Atlanta Police Historical Society (APHS)

3. Atlanta Police Leadership Institute (APLI)

4.7 COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION (CSD)

4.7.1 The Community Services Division (CSD) establishes proactive community partnerships and embodies principles established in community-oriented policing through strategic planning, decentralized decision-making, and transparency of operations.

4.7.2 The Community Services Division is overseen by a Deputy Chief and is responsible for the following Sections:

1. Airport Section

2. Special Operations Section (SOS)

- Accident Investigation & High Intensity Traffic Team (H.I.T.T)
- Aviation
- Film Liaison Unit
- Motors
- Mounted Patrol
- SWAT/EOD

3. Community Oriented Policing Section (COPS)

- Community Liaison Unit (CLU)
- Homeless Outreach Program Unit (HOPE)
- Path Force
- Police Athletic League (PAL)



4.8 SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION (SED)

Special Events Division is responsible for managing large planned events, peaceful protests and civil unrest. The following Sections and Units are overseen by the Deputy Chief of SED:

1. Strategic Response Section:
 - Small Unmanned Aircraft/Drone Unit
 - Strategic Response Unit
 - Bicycle Response Team (BRT)
 - Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU)
 - Field Force Extraction (FFE)

4.9 CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE (CAO)

The Chief Administration Officer provides administrative and logistical support to all divisions in the Atlanta Police Department. The CAO oversees the following:

1. E-911 Communications Division
 - Electronic Maintenance
 - Operations
 - Technology
2. Chief Administrative Office
 - Administrative Operations
 - Central Records Unit
 - Fleet Management Unit
 - GCIC / Validations
 - License & Permits Unit
 - Logistical Support Unit
 - Open Records Unit
 - Property Control Unit
 - Employee Services
 - Background and Recruitment
 - Personnel & OT Tracking
 - Fiscal Management
 - Special Projects & Strategy
 - Program Management
 - Code Enforcement
 - Technology & Information Services
 - Real Time Crime Center
3. Chaplaincy Corps, Peer Support and the Honor Guard



5. DEFINITIONS

Worksite: A location such as the Chief's administrative office, a bureau or division administrative office, a section, or a geographically detached unit, squad, or office specified by the Chief of Police.

Supervisor: Any sworn member of the Atlanta Police Department whose rank is sergeant or higher.

This may not be deleted, revised, or amended pursuant to the November 29, 2018, Order in Calhoun, et al. v. Pennington, et al. 1:09-CV-3286-TCB. Consult the City of Atlanta Department of Law with any questions or concerns.

APD Facilities: Atlanta Police zone precincts or mini-precincts, OPS building, Training Academy, Headquarters, or their functional equivalent.

This Section, 5.2, may not be deleted, revised, or amended pursuant to the November 29, 2018, Order in Calhoun, et al. v. Pennington, et al. 1:09-CV-3286-TCB. Consult the City of Atlanta Department of Law with any questions or concerns.

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.1010 “Mission and Organization of the Department”, effective August 13, 2020.

7. REFERENCES

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) 6th ed. Standards; 11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1, 11.3.2, 12.1.2, and 12.2.1a.